

Message Text

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11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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Z P 270830Z OCT 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4123
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T CAIRO 3249

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MOPS EG IS PINT
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VIEW OF THIRD ARMY SITUATION

REF CARIO 3248

1. LAST NIGHT I SPENT THREE HOURS TALKING TO SAAD EL SARKI OF ARAB LEAGUE, CAIRO. EL SARKI, A FORMER POLICE GENERAL, IS WELL LOCKED IN TO OVERALL EGYPTIAN SITUATION AND PERSONALLY A VERY MODERATE, REASONABLE MAN. IN HIS LONG CONVERSATION HE SUBSTANTIATED ALMOST COMPLETELY OUR PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION REPORT GIVEN IN RFTEL. TOWARD THE END OF THE EVENING AND IN IMPASSIONED TONES, HE ASKED WHY THE ISRAELIS MUST STEAL VICTORY FROM THE ARABS AND AGAIN MAKE THEM FEEL THE STING OF DEFEAT? HE SAID IT COULD NOT HAPPEN, MUST NOT HAPPEN, AND WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AND EGYPTIANS WOULD FIGHT WITH EVERYTHING AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO PREVENT IT.

SECRET

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2. WE BELIEVE THAT EL SARKI WAS VOICING A FEELING THAT HAS HIGH CURRENCY AMONGST THE TOP MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP. UNLESS THE PRESSURE ON THE THIRD ARMY IS STOPPED AND FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES ARE MADE

AVAILABLE TO THEM QUICKLY, THEIR IS THE REAL POSSIBILITY OF A FULL RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH NOW EXIST FOR A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT.

SMITH

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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BEIRUT
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